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BOSTON SCHOOL MEDALS.

THE FRANKLIN MEDAL.

THE Franklin Medal, so well known to all Boston boys, derives its origin and name from Benjamin Franklin. It was given by him for the encouragement of scholarship in the free schools of his native city. For more than eighty years this token of distinction has been annually awarded by the School Committee to a number of the most meritorious scholars in the highest class of each public school for boys, above the primary grade. In providing for the establishment of this Medal, Franklin desired to evince the grateful recollection which he retained to the close of his life, of the benefit he derived from the public schools, and at the same time to furnish to the pupils in these schools an incentive to stimulate them to make the best use of the means provided for their education. This Medal may be regarded, therefore, as a memorial of his constant affection for the place of his birth, while it has "rendered him a sort of Patron Saint to Boston school boys to the latest generation." Franklin's account of his own education, as related in his autobiography, may not be out of place here. He says :

"I was put to the grammar school at eight years of age, my father intending to devote me, as the tithe of his sons, to the service of the Church. My early readiness in learning to read (which must have been very early, as I do not remember when I could not read), and the opinion of all his friends that I should certainly make a good scholar, encouraged him in this purpose of his. My uncle Benjamin, too, approved of it, and proposed to give me all his short-hand volumes of sermons, to set up with, if I would learn his character. I continued, however, at the grammar-school not quite one year, though in that time I had risen gradually from the middle of the class of that year to be at the head of it, and farther was removed into the next class above it, in order to go with that into the third at the end of the year." This Grammar School is now known as the Latin School.

Franklin never outlived the warm attachment to his native city, nor did he forget the schools where he received his earliest instruction. In his old age he put the following provision in his will, which will embalm his memory in the hearts of the school-boys to the end of time.

"I was born in Boston, New England, and owe my first instructions in literature to the free grammar-schools established there. I therefore give one hundred pounds sterling to my executors to be by them, the survivors or survivor of them, paid over to the managers or directors of the free schools in my native town of Boston, to be by them, or those person or persons, who shall have the superintendence and management of the said schools, put out to interest, and so continued at interest for ever, which interest annually shall be laid out in silver medals, and given as honorary rewards annually by the directors of the said free schools, for the encouragement of scholarship in the said schools belonging to the said town, in such manner as to the discretion of the Selectmen of the said town shall seem meet."

In accordance with the conditions of this bequest, the interest of this legacy, now known as the "Franklin's School Medal Fund," has been appropriated annually to the purchase of silver Medals for meritorious pupils in the public schools. The amount of this fund is now one thousand dollars. The first Medals, though dated 1792, were not distributed till January, 1793.

The cuts in the frontispiece are representations of the size and designs of the Medals. Nos. 1 and 2 are fac-similes of the original design, as adopted in 1792, and drawn from the records of the School Committee, except the name of the recipient, which has been inserted as it stands at the head of the list. Probably the open book is intended as a symbol of the Reading Schools, and the pens crossed, of the Writing Schools. This supposition is rendered the more probable from the fact, that after the first year of the distribution, it was determined to adopt a different design for the Latin School, substituting for the above, "a pile of books, with the words—'*Detur Digniori*'—inscribed on the same side," and on the reverse, "*Franklin's Donation, adjudged by the School Committee of the Town of Boston to —*." An exact fac-simile of a medal for the Latin School, as awarded in 1809, is shown in cuts numbered 3 and 4. The dies now in use were executed in 1851, and are represented in cuts numbered 5 and 6. The medals are struck at the Mint in Philadelphia.

#### THE CITY MEDAL.

A City Medal was instituted in 1821, by a vote of the School Committee, for girls. It was simply an extension of the plan of the Franklin Medal, but it was abolished September 11, 1866. The first medal was engraved and in the shape of a hexagon. It is represented in cuts Nos. 7 and 8. Cuts Nos. 9 and 10 show the design last in use.

We are indebted largely to a report by Mr. John D. Philbrick, late Superintendent of Public Schools, for the facts, and frequently the language, in this paper, as well as for the use of the cuts which constitute the frontispiece.

S. A. G.

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#### THE AMERICAN TRADE DOLLAR.

THE American Trade Dollars have gained a wide circulation. At the Calcutta mint 233,000 of them have been received during three months of the present year.

## THE WASHINGTON MEDALS.

THE last number of the *Journal* contained a brief account of the Washington Medals, recently presented to the Massachusetts Historical Society, by the Hon. Peter Harvey. We take from the "Proceedings" the following description of these interesting Medals, prepared for the Society by Mr. W. S. Appleton.—[EDS.

I. GEORGIO WASHINGTON SUPREMO DUCI EXERCITVVM ADSECTORI LIBERTATIS COMITIA AMERICANA ; head of Washington facing the right ; below DU VIVIER PARIS. F. Rev. HOSTIBUS PRIMO FUGATIS ; in exergue BOSTONIUM RECUPERATUM XVII. MARTII MDCCLXXVI. ; at the left, Washington with four officers, all on horseback ; at the right, a fort, and near it two cannon,—on one DUVIV.,—and cannon-balls lying on the ground ; in the middle distance, soldiers under arms ; beyond is a view of Boston lying near the water, on which are several vessels just sailing away. Size 43.

In Congress, 25 March, 1776, sundry letters were read : " One from General Washington of the 19th, wherein he informs Congress, that on the 17th the enemy evacuated Boston, and our troops took possession of it : *Resolved*, that the thanks of this Congress, in their own name, and in the name of the thirteen United Colonies, whom they represent, be presented to his Excellency General Washington, and the officers and soldiers under his command, for their wise and spirited conduct in the siege and acquisition of Boston ; and that a medal of gold be struck in commemoration of this great event, and presented to his Excellency ; and that a committee of three be appointed to prepare a letter of thanks, and a proper device for the medal. The members chosen, Mr. J. Adams, Mr. Jay, and Mr. Hopkins." The dies are still in the French mint.

II. HORATIO GATES DUCI STRENUO ; in exergue COMITIA AMERICANA ; bust of Gates facing the left ; to the right below N. GATTEAUX. Rev. SALUS REGIONUM SEPTENTRIONAL. ; in exergue HOSTE AD SARATOGAM IN DEDITION. ACCEPTO DIE XVII. OCT. MDCCLXXVII. ; at the right Gen. Gates, to whom Gen. Burgoyne is giving his sword ; behind Gates are soldiers under arms, and near them an olive tree ; behind Burgoyne are soldiers laying down their arms ; on the ground a drum, flag, mortar and cannon-balls ; in the distance hills ; below to the left GATTEAUX F. Size 35.

In Congress, 4 November, 1777, "*Resolved*, That the thanks of Congress, in their own name, and in behalf of the inhabitants of the thirteen United States, be presented to Major-general Gates, commander-in-chief in the northern department, . . . and that a medal of gold be struck under the direction of the board of war, in commemoration of this great event, and in the name of these United States presented by the President to Major-general Gates."

III. ANTONIO WAYNE DUCI EXERCITUS ; in exergue COMITIA AMERICANA ; at the left an Indian Queen, who holds a mural crown in her left hand, and with her right presents a laurel-crown to Gen. Wayne ; at her feet are an alligator, a rope, and the shield of the United States ; below the general GATTEAUX. Rev. STONEY-POINT EXPUGNATUM ; in exergue XV JUL. MDCCLXXIX. ; a view of the assault including both sides of the river, the fort in the distance ; below at the left GATTEAUX. Size 34.

IV. JOANNI STEWART COHORTIS PRÆFECTO ; in exergue COMITIA AMERICANA ; at the right an Indian Queen, who presents a palm-branch to Major Stewart ; her left hand rests on and supports the shield of the United States, and at her feet are an alligator and a rope ; below the major GATTEAUX. Rev. STONEY-POINT OPPUGNATUM ; in exergue XV JUL. MDCCLXXIX. ; a view of the assault, a charge in the foreground ; below at the left GATTEAUX. Size 29.

V. VIRTUTIS ET AUDACIÆ MONUM. ET PRÆMIUM ; in exergue D. DE FLEURY EQUITI GALLO PRIMO SUPER MUROS RESP. AMERIC. D. D. ; a man in ancient armor standing in the ruins of a fort, with a short sword in right hand, and in left a flag, on which he places his right foot ; on a stone of the fort DU VIVIER S. Rev. AGGERES PALUDES HOSTES VICTI ; in exergue STONY-PT. EXPUGN. XV. JUL. MDCCLXXIX. ; a bird's-eye view of the fort ; beyond is the river with six vessels. Size 29.

In Congress, 26 July, 1779, letters were read announcing the capture of Stony Point, and it was "*Resolved, unanimously*, that a medal, emblematical of this action, be struck : That one of gold be presented to Brigadier-general Wayne, and a silver one to Lieutenant-colonel Fleury and Major Stewart respectively."

The next day Congress also "*Resolved*, That the board of treasury cause the medals in honor of the commander-in-chief and other officers of the United States, to be struck without delay, agreeably to the several resolutions of Congress on this subject."

VI. DANIELI MORGAN DUCI EXERCITUS ; in exergue COMITIA AMERICANA ; *dupre f.* ; at the left an Indian Queen, who places a laurel-crown on the head of General Morgan, who bends to receive it, resting his right hand on his sword ; behind them the shield of the United States, an olive-branch, cannons, a drum, trumpet, flags, &c., and at the right an open landscape. Rev. VICTORIA LIBERTATIS VINDEX. ; in exergue FVGATIS CAPTIS AVT CAESIS AD COWPENS HOSTIBVS XVII. JAN. MDCCLXXXI. ; DUPRE INV. ET F. ; a view of the battle, with General Morgan leading on a body of infantry, before whom the English are fleeing. Size 36.

VII. GULIELMO WASHINGTON LEGIONIS EQUIT. PRÆFECTO ; in exergue COMITIA AMERICAN. ; a view of the battle of the Cowpens, with Colonel Washington leading a charge of cavalry after the enemy ; in the air above a flying figure of Victory, with laurel-crown and palm-branch ; at right below the horse DUV. Rev. QUOD PARVA MILITUM MANU STRENUE PROSECUTUS HOSTES VIRTUTIS INGENITÆ PRÆCLARUM SPECIMEN DEDIT IN PUGNA AD COWPENS. XVII. JAN. MDCCLXXXI., in seven lines within a wreath of laurel, tied by a bow at top and bottom. Size 29. The dies are in the French mint.

VIII. JOH. EGAR. HOWARD LEGIONIS PEDITUM PRÆFECTO ; in exergue COMITIA AMERICANA ; Colonel Howard on horseback, before him a color-bearer running, and beyond them a flying figure of Victory, with laurel-crown and palm-branch ; below at left DU VIV. Rev. QUOD IN NUTANTEM HOSTIUM ACIEM SUBITO IRRUENS PRÆCLARUM BELLICÆ VIRTUTIS SPECIMEN DEDIT IN PUGNA AD COWPENS XVII. JAN. MDCCLXXXI., in seven lines within a wreath of laurel tied by a bow at top and bottom. Size 29. The dies are in the French mint.

In Congress, 9 March, 1781, *Resolved*, "That a medal of gold be presented to Brigadier-general Morgan, and a medal of silver to Lieutenant-

colonel Washington, of the cavalry, and one of silver to Lieutenant-colonel Howard, of the infantry of the United States; severally with emblems and mottoes descriptive of the conduct of those officers respectively on that memorable day," viz. of the Cowpens.

IX. NATHANIEL GREEN EGREGIO DUCI COMITIA AMERICANA; bust of Green in uniform facing the left. Rev. SALUS REGIONUM AUSTRALIUM.; in exergue HOSTIBUS AD EUTAW DEBELLATIS DIE VIII SEPT. MDCCLXXXI.; Victory with laurel-crown and palm-branch resting on her left foot on a broken shield, near which are another shield, flags, a broken sword, helmet, laurel-branch, &c.; to left DUPRE. Size 35.

In Congress, 29 October, 1781, "*Resolved*, That a British standard be presented to Major-general Greene, as an honorable testimony of his merit, and a golden medal emblematical of the battle and victory aforesaid," viz. of Eutaw Springs.

X. LIBERTAS AMERICANA; in exergue 4 JUIL. 1776; a beautiful head of Liberty facing the left, with hair loosely streaming backwards; over the right shoulder a pole, on which is a Phrygian cap; on edge of bust DUPRE. Rev. NON SINE DIIS ANIMOSUS INFANS; in exergue 17 OCT. 1777; the infant Hercules in his cradle, strangling two serpents, while Pallas protects him, with a spear in her right hand, and in her left a shield charged with the lilies of France, against which a leopard is throwing himself; to right DUPRE. F. Size 30. This medal was struck in Paris under the direction of Franklin. See Proceedings for 1869-70, p. 301.

XI. BENJ. FRANKLIN NATUS BOSTON. XVII. JAN. MDCCVI.; bust of Franklin facing the left; on edge of bust DUPRE. F. Rev. ERIPUIT CÆLO FULMEN SCEPTUM QUE TYRANNIS, in four lines within a wreath of oak; below SCULPSIT ET DICAVIT AUG. DUPRE ANNO MDCCLXXXVI. Size 29. The dies are in the French mint.

These medals were engraved by Dupre, Du Vivier, and Gatteaux, three famous French medallic artists of the time. Some statements concerning them are made in a small pamphlet on the "National Medals of America," published in 1854 for Thomas Wyatt. Unfortunately his reputation for accuracy is not so good as could be wished. He says that the medals "for General Wayne, Colonel de Fleury, and Major Stewart, were executed under the direction of Dr. Franklin, and those presented to Generals Washington, Gates, Greene, Morgan, Howard, and William Washington, were executed under the direction of Thomas Jefferson." I do not find the evidence of this, but have no reason to doubt the truth of the following statement by him, that, "At the time the gold medals were struck, the French Government presented a series in silver to General Washington, which medals, after the decease of the General, were offered for sale, and purchased by the late Hon. Daniel Webster, who kindly loaned them to the Publisher."

#### *To the Editors of the Journal.*

In the American Museum for November, 1787, pages 493-5, (a monthly magazine printed in Philadelphia by Mathew Carey,) is a letter from David Humphreys, relating to several of the above medals, and I copy it for



preservation, as it seems to establish some points relating to the dies of these medals which have been overlooked, or lost sight of.

W. T. R. M.

*To the Printer of the American Museum :*

SIR,—I understand that a part, if not all, of the medals, which, in the course of the late war, were voted by Congress, to officers of distinguished merit, and for the execution of which I contracted with artists at Paris, have lately arrived in America. But not having seen any account published of the devices and inscriptions, I presume it will not be ungrateful to the public to receive some authentic information respecting these memorials of national glory. However superfluous the publication of the correspondence on this subject, with the Perpetual Secretary of the Royal Academy of Inscriptions and Belles Lettres, might be deemed—it will not, I conceive, be improper it should be known that this learned Society, to whom a reference was made, entered on the discussion with the same alacrity as if the subject had been designed to illustrate the actions of their compatriots, or to immortalize some glorious events in the annals of their own nation. You will be at liberty to insert in your *Museum* the result of their deliberations.

In our free republics, certainly, nothing should be suppressed that can tend to awaken a noble spirit of emulation, to cherish the fine feelings of patriotism, to exhibit alluring examples for imitation, or to extend and perpetuate the remembrance of those heroic achievements which have ennobled the era of the American revolution. Few inventions could be more happily calculated to diffuse the knowledge and preserve the memory of illustrious characters and splendid events, than medals—whether we take into consideration the unperishable nature of the substance from whence they are formed, the facility of multiplying copies, or the practice of depositing them in the cabinets of the curious. Perhaps one improvement might be made. The sage and venerable Dr. Franklin, whose patriotic genius is active in old age, and ever prolific in projects of public utility, once suggested, in conversation with me, as an expedient for propagating still more extensively the knowledge of facts designed to be perpetuated in medals, that their devices should be impressed on the current coin of the nation.

Under the influence of such ideas, I shall claim the indulgence of my countrymen for bringing forward a communication which might possibly have come more satisfactorily from some other quarter. An apprehension that the subject might remain unnoticed, is my apology.

I am, sir, your most obedient and most humble servant,

DAVID HUMPHREYS.

*Mount Vernon, November, 1787.*

*Devices and Inscriptions of American Medals.*

The gold medal for General Washington represents the head of His Excellency, with this legend :

*Georgio Washington supremo duci exercituum, adsertori libertatis, comitia Americana.*

On the reverse.

The evacuation of Boston. The American army advances in good order towards the town, which is seen at a distance, while the British army flies

with precipitation towards the strand, to embark on board the vessels with which the road is covered. In front of the picture, on the side of the American army, General Washington appears on horseback, amidst a group of officers, to whom he seems to be pointing out the retreat of the enemy.

Legend.

*Hostibus primo fugatis.*

On the exergue.

*Bostonium recuperatum, die 17 Martis,*  
M.DCC.LXXVI.

The gold medal for General Gates represents the head of that General, with this legend :

*Horatio Gates, duci strenuo, comitia Americana.*

On the reverse :

The enemy's General, at the head of his army, who are grounding their arms, presents his sword to the American General, whose troops stand with shouldered arms.

Legend.

*Salus regionum Septentrionalium.*

On the exergue.

*Hoste ad Saratogam in deditionem accepto, die 17, Octobris,*  
M.DCC.LXXVII.

The gold medal of General Greene, represents the head of that General, with this legend :

*Nathanieli Greene, egregio duci, comitia Americana.*

On the reverse : a Victory treading under feet broken arms.

Legend.

*Salus regionum australium.*

On the exergue.

*Hostibus apud Eutaw debellatis, die 8 Septembris,*  
M.DCC.LXXXI.

The medal in gold for General Morgan, and those in silver for the Colonels Howard and Washington, were to be indicative of the several circumstances which attended the victory at the Cowpens, on the 17th of January, 1781, in conformity to a special resolution of Congress.

It may not be foreign to the purpose to add, that dyes have formerly been engraved, under the direction of Dr. Franklin, for striking the gold medal for General Wayne, and the silver medals for the Colonels DeFleury and Steward, emblematic of their gallant conduct in storming the works of Stony Point, sword in hand.

These are all the medals voted by Congress in the course of the war.

## COMPARATIVE VALUE OF SILVER COIN AND UNITED STATES CURRENCY.

THE following data, furnished by Dr. Linderman, director of the United States mint, explain the comparative value of silver coins and United States currency, both measured by the United States gold standard :

Fine silver is worth in gold at present about 125 cents per ounce, making the price of standard silver (900 thousands fine) 112 1-2 cents per ounce. The weight of two half dollars, as fixed by law, is 385 8-10 grains, and since 480 grains (one ounce troy) are worth 112 1-2 cents gold, two half dollars (385 8-10 grains) are worth 90 4-10 cents. With gold at 108 1-2, the currency value of two half dollars is 98 cents. The above calculation refers to silver coin—half and quarter dollars and dimes already issued.

For the out-turn from the Mint in fractional silver coin we will suppose 100 ounces of standard silver to be sold to the Mint at 120 cents (the existing Mint purchasing rate), payable in such coin—100 ounces standard silver bullion at 112 1-2 cents gold per standard ounce—\$112 50; add 8 1-2 per cent. premium on gold (9 56), which gives as the currency cost \$122 66.

This bullion, if sold to the Mint, would at the present purchasing rate (120 cents per ounce standard) return to the seller \$1 20, or \$2 06 less than cost. It will therefore be seen that, with the gold premium at 8 1-2 per cent. the price of standard silver must fall to about 109 1-2 cents, gold, per ounce before it can be converted, at a sufficient profit, into coins to be paid out at their nominal value, and circulate concurrently with United States currency. Silver bullion will go to the Mint for such coinage whenever it is the best market for it.

It should be added, that these coins are issued by the government at the rate of 124 4-10 cents per ounce standard, the difference between that rate and the purchasing price—120 cents per ounce—being the seigniorage to the government, the latter manufacturing the coin on its own account, and consequently defraying the expense of coinage.

The standard for the trade dollar is 420 grains, or 34 2-10 grains more than two half dollars, and is therefore, at the present market rate for silver, worth about 98 1-2 cents in gold, or 106 8-10 cents currency.

In all countries where gold is the standard or measure of value, silver coins are overvalued and of limited legal tender. In Great Britain the difference between the nominal and intrinsic value is about ten per cent., and the recent coinage laws of Germany, Norway, and Sweden and Denmark provide for a similar seigniorage.

The Latin States—France, Belgium, Switzerland and Italy—also issue a subsidiary silver coinage, the seigniorage being at the present value for silver nearly equal to that of Great Britain.

Subsidiary silver coins are intended for internal circulation, and not for export. They are not money of commerce, and do not leave the country of their issue until expelled by an inferior currency, as, for instance, excessive issues of irredeemable paper money.—*Washington Chronicle*.



## ORIGIN OF THE DOLLAR MARK.

A WRITER in a late number of the *Atlantic Monthly* has a curious paper on the origin of the dollar symbol (\$). In brief, his theory is that the two parallel upright marks may be traced back to the pillars of Hercules, and the S-like figure to a scroll intertwined around them. According to tradition, when the Tyrian colony landed on the Atlantic coast of Spain, and founded the ancient city of Gades, now Cadiz, Melcarthus, the leader of the expedition, set up two stone pillars as memorials, over which was built a temple of Hercules. As the temple increased in wealth, the stone pillars were replaced by others, made of an alloy of gold and silver, and these two pillars became, in time, the emblem of the city, as a horse's head became that of Carthage. Centuries later, when Charles V. became Emperor of Germany, he adopted a new coat of arms, in which the pillars of Gades or Cadiz, occupied a prominent position in the device. Hence, when a new coin, the Colonnata, was struck at the Imperial Mint, it bore the new device, two pillars, with a scroll entwined around them. This coin became a standard of value in the Mediterranean, and the pillars and scroll became its accepted symbol in writing. The two horizontal bars which cross the symbol of the English pound sterling, are also thought to have a similar origin. In the same paper the symbolic origin of the pillars of Hercules is traced far back into the remote era prior to the dispersion of the human race from its Asiatic birth-place. They are identified with the household pillars of the Scandinavians, and the idea from which the concrete embodiments spring is to be found alike in the Sanscrit Vedas and in the glowing imagery of the Hebrew poets. They are the symbols of day and night, of light and darkness, which to the dawning intelligence of the Arian races were evidences of the Omnipotent, and to the Jewish patriarchs the work of a revealed Creator.

## NEW IMITATION OF SILVER.

AN account is given of a new French process, by which, it is said, an article is produced which, in respect to color, specific gravity, malleability, ductility, sound and other characteristics, almost perfectly resembles silver.

This product is a compound of Copper, Nickel, Tin, Zinc, Cobalt and Iron, as follows: Copper, 71.00 parts, 16.50 of Nickel, 1.75 of Cobalt, 2.50 of Tin, 1.25 of Iron, and 7.00 of Zinc, and a small quantity of Aluminum, say one and a half per cent., may also be added. The manufacture is rather peculiar. The first step is to alloy the nickel with its weight of the copper and the zinc, in the proportion of six parts to ten of the copper. The nickel alloy, the iron, the rest of the copper, the cobalt, in the form of black oxide, and charcoal, are then placed all together in a plumbago crucible. This is now covered over with charcoal and exposed to great heat. When the whole is melted, the heat is allowed to subside, and the alloy of zinc and copper is added when the temperature is just sufficient to melt it. This done, the crucible is taken off the fire and its contents stirred with a hazel stick; the tin is then added, first

being wrapped in paper, then dropped into the crucible. The alloy is again stirred and finally poured into the moulds; it is now ready to be rolled and wrought the same as silver. Its superiority and beautiful lustre are said to be due to the cobalt.

## LORD BALTIMORE'S MARYLAND COINAGE.

BY HENRY W. HENFREY.

MR. HENRY W. HENFREY sends the following communication to the July number of the *Canadian Antiquarian and Numismatic Journal*, and we copy it from their pages. The efforts of the editors have been very successful, so far as the appearance of that magazine and its contributions to numismatic knowledge are concerned, and we trust also financially, though we are aware of the great difficulty attending the last, in all attempts to advance the public taste or knowledge in specialties. The extracts given by Mr. Henfrey were printed a few months ago, in the Maryland chapter of Mr. S. S. Crosby's *Work on the "Early Coins of America,"* who seems to have prosecuted his researches in that direction almost simultaneously with Mr. Henfrey. [Eds.

HAVING accidentally met with the subjoined extracts when engaged in searching the archives in the Public Record Office, London, for anything to illustrate my "*Medallic History of Oliver Cromwell*;" I am induced to publish them here as being perhaps interesting to collectors of American coins.

These orders are taken *verbatim et literatim* from the original entry Book of the Council of State, which sat from the 13th May, to the 13th October, 1659, during the Interregnum in England, and they relate to the silver coinage of shillings, six-pences, and groats, struck by Cecil Lord Baltimore for Maryland, and engraved by *Folkes* and *Ruding*, plate XXX. Nos. 6, 7, 8.

The present extracts appear to throw some new light upon the *date* when the Maryland silver coins were made, for they certainly prove that a quantity of this money was made in 1659, while the Rev. Rogers Ruding, in his *Annals of the Coinage*, suggests the date of 1652, or earlier. The Rev. Henry Christmas (in the London Numismatic Society's Journal) says that the Baltimore coinage did not *circulate* till 1660. However I will leave this question in the hands of numismatists better acquainted with the early coinage of America than myself.

The second order, which is dated the very next day after the first one, is expressed in less severe terms, and seems perhaps to have been intended to supersede the first-made order.

I cannot find any further notices of this matter among the records, and I suspect that the report of the Committee for Plantations was never made; since the Council was itself dissolved by Lambert on the 13th October, only eight days after the date of the last extract.

For an account of Richard Pight and his numerous proceedings against counterfeiters of coin during the Protectorate, see pp. 38-45 of my "*Numismata Cromwelliana, or the Medallic History of Oliver Cromwell*," now in course of publication.

14 Park Street, Westminster,

April 1, 1874.

## EXTRACT NO. I.

Page 646, Entry Book No. 107, of the Council of State Interregnum.

"Tuesday, 4th October, 1659.

"Upon Information given by Richard Pight, Clerke of the Irons in the Mint, that Cicill Lord Baltimore and diverse others with him, and for him, have made and transported great sums of money, and doe still goe on to make more. Ordered, that a warrant be issued forth to the said Richard Pight for the apprehending of the Lord Baltimore and such others as are suspected to be ingaged w<sup>th</sup> him, in the said offence, and for the seizeing of all such moneys, stamps, tooles and Instrum<sup>ts</sup> for Coyning the same, as can be met w<sup>th</sup> and to bring them in safe custody to the Counsell."

## EXTRACT NO. II.

Page 653 of the same book.

"Wednesday, 5th October, 1659.

"The Councell being informed that a great quantity of Silver is coyned into peeces of diverse rates and values, and sent into Maryland, by the Lo. Baltimore or his order. Ordered, that the said Lo. Baltimore be sumoned to attend the Comittee of the Councell for Plantacons, who are to inquire into the whole business, and to report the state thereof to the Councell."

## THE CROSS ON COINS.

THE *London Art Journal* for June has an illustrated article on "The Cross, in Nature and in Art, its History, Ramifications, and various Aspects," by Llewellynn Jewitt, F.S.A., which proves that "in numismatics, the cross has been used from very early times,"—and if we accept his instancing the Jewish shekel as a proof—"from early pre-Christian times, a favorite device, whether of ornament or of symbolic meaning." The Jewish shekel bore on one side what is usually called "a triple lily or hyacinth," which forms a peculiarly pretty floral cross. Indeed, the examples of coins given are intended to prove that the coins of ancient Gaul, of Britain, of Spain, and other countries, centuries before the Christian era, bore crosses of various forms. It is shown that on Roman coins the cross is of frequent occurrence, upon early as well as on those of later periods, and that the curious and rude coins of the Vandal kings present a remarkable series of crosses of various forms. On Anglo-Saxon coins the cross was very generally used, and of diverse forms, some extremely simple, and others more elaborate and of great beauty. From the time of the Norman conquest downward through several reigns, the crosses on the reverse of English silver coins were varied in their form. The small coins being impressed with the cross on the reverse, were commonly called "crosses;"—thus, "He has not a *cross* in his pocket," meant "He has no *money* in his pocket." In this sense the term is used by Shakespeare, who makes Touchstone say to Celia: "For my part I had rather bear *with* you than *bear* you; yet I should *bear no cross* if I did bear you; for I think

you have no money in your purse. — *As You Like It. Act II., Sc. 4.* As we follow down the various reigns, the article shows that the cross becomes more elaborate, and that it forms the arms of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, with the Star of the Garter in the centre, and surmounted with the open arched crown.

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### JAPAN MINT.

THE Annual Report of the Director of the Imperial Mint at Osaka, Japan, has been published with details, showing that the Japanese are as active in improving their coinage as in adapting themselves to the new circumstances brought into existence by railways and under-sea telegraphs. The number of gold and silver pieces coined in 1873, was more than twenty-six million, worth more than twenty-nine million dollars. The value of the silver pieces is indicated by Japanese characters on one side, and by Roman numerals on the other. Excellence of quality and workmanship are alike cared for; and by order of the Imperial Minister of Finance, specimens of the metals were sent to England with a request that they might be tested at the Royal Mint. The leading places in the Japanese mint are filled by thirteen Englishmen, who direct the native workmen, and find them apt to learn. Besides coining, they make assays of all kinds of minerals, including coal: and we are informed that laboratories are in successful operation, and that sulphuric acid is manufactured in quantities which will soon render importation from Europe unnecessary. It seems clear that ere long Japan will play an important part in the commerce and arts of the world.

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### MEDAL OF CAPT. NATHAN HALE.

#### *Editors of Journal of Numismatics:*

IN the *Journal*, (Vol. viii. p. 91,) there is a query as to a medal of Capt. Nathan Hale. None was ever struck. But if merit were the test of medals, there would have been abundance, for this obscure revolutionary martyr of a century ago was, if the few existing records of him can be trusted, a person of many and striking excellences. He was handsome, strong, active, good tempered, high-principled, sensible, practical, and successful in his occupations of school teacher and soldier. A hundred years ago at this present writing, Hale was a school teacher in New London, Conn., on a salary of £70 *per annum*. When the war broke out the next year he left pleasant circumstances and good prospects to join the army; when the opportunity came, a year later, he deliberately ran the much greater risks incurred by acting as a spy. His burial place is unknown; a modest monument has been erected to him in his native town of Coventry, Conn. Few literary records of him remain; the chief one is the small biography by Mr. I. W. Stuart, published at Hartford in 1856. Nor is any portrait of him known; for the miniature long preserved



by the lady to whom he was betrothed, who died in 1845, has been lost. A commemorative medal—to return to the point at which this paragraph began—even though emblems and inscriptions may not be as interesting as a portrait, would be a graceful and appropriate tribute to a self-sacrificing patriot.

F. B. P.

*Boston, Aug. 8, 1874.*

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### TREASURE FROM THE DEEP.

*Editors of Journal of Numismatics :*

I FIND a communication in your July number entitled "A Message from the Sea," which reminds me of a coin given me many years ago, which has similar incrustations and was attached to an iron spike. It was accompanied by the extract from a newspaper copied below, and it seems very probable that Mr. Gordon's coins were also a part of the treasure-trove of the San Pedro.

R. S.

#### "SPECIMEN OF SPANISH TREASURE."

"We have more than once referred to the Yankee enterprise of procuring the treasure lost in the Spanish eighty-four gun ship, San Pedro Alcantara, in the year 1815, on the Spanish Main. This vessel had a large quantity of specie on board, and took fire in the spirit room, and blew up on the coast between the islands of Pearl and Margarita, killing nearly four hundred of the crew.

"The Company formed about two years ago, has succeeded in obtaining a considerable amount of specie, which seems to have been scattered in every direction by the explosion. Many of the Spanish dollars are found firmly imbedded in a sort of concrete mass, or incrustation, in which shells and coral are intermingled.

"We have lately seen some curious specimens which have recently been sent to this city, in which the dollars are firmly attached by this concrete, to iron spikes and cannon balls, presenting a most singular appearance, and furnishing at a glance a valuable practical lesson in geology. One of these specimens consists evidently of three grape shot, firmly united by this concrete substance, as hard as the hardest rock, and in which are several Spanish dollars imbedded."

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### SAN FRANCISCO MINT.

THE principal die in the new San Francisco Mint weighs almost fifteen tons, and is the largest ever made in the United States. It will be used for coining twenty-dollar pieces and the trade dollar. Two other fresh dies will be used for the ten-dollar pieces and for half and quarter-dollars, while the two in use at the present mint will be brought over to the new building for the dimes and half-dimes.—*New York Evening Post, August 22, 1874.*

## CUFIC COIN OF HAROUN AL RASCHID.

*Editors of Journal of Numismatics :*

THERE is one oriental coin in my collection, the description of which may be interesting. It is a gold dinar of Haroun al Raschid, which was brought to this country by a missionary, and the characters on it have been translated by one of our oriental scholars.

Translation :—"There is no God but Allah alone, without an associate." "Mohammed is the Envoy of God, whom He hath sent with guidance and the religion of truth, in order to show that to be above every religion." "Mohammed is the Envoy of God." "In the name of God, this dinar was struck in the year one hundred and seventy-five."

It is a coin of the fourth year of the reign of Haroun al Raschid, A. D. 791-92. The mean value of the dinar in English money is 10s. 6d. s.

## AMERICAN MEDALS AND CABINET COINS.

COLLECTORS will be interested in the following Circular, issued from the Mint of the United States, Philadelphia, under the Coinage Act of 1873, and regulations approved by the Director of the Mint.

"All inquiries, orders and remittances must be sent to the Superintendent of the Mint at Philadelphia. The Medals and Coins will be in the responsible custody of one of his Clerks, who will also attend to the orders, reply to letters, and keep the accounts.

## RULES.

"1. The price of Medals, Proof Coins, Pattern Pieces, &c., shall be fixed by the Superintendent of the Mint, with the approval of the Director.

"2. No Coin or Pattern Piece shall be struck after the year of their date, or in any other metal or alloy than that in which the Coin was issued or intended to be issued, except experimental pieces in Copper or other soft metal to prove the dies, under the direction of the Superintendent. The dies shall be defaced at the end of each year, and such impressions as the Engraver may find necessary to take while preparing the dies, shall be destroyed in the presence of the Superintendent when the dies are finished.

"3. When a Pattern Piece is adopted and used in the regular coinage in the same year, it shall then be issued as a Proof, at a price near its current value; or if it comes out early in the year it will be placed in the regular Proof Set. The Superintendent will furnish, without charge, on application therefor, a Pattern Piece to any *Incorporated* Numismatic Society in the United States. In such cases if the pattern is in Gold or Silver, the value of the metal will be required.

"4. The price of the regular Proof Set of Gold Coins will be Forty-Three Dollars in Gold; the Proof Set of Silver and Minor Coins, Three Dollars in Silver, or the equivalent in Currency.

"A list of Medals with the Price thereof is annexed.

"JAMES POLLOCK, *Superintendent.*"

*List of Medals in Copper Bronzed, also in Gold and Silver, which may be obtained at the Mint.*

ARMY.		SIZE.	PRICE.	PRESIDENTIAL.		SIZE.	PRICE.
1.	Washington before Boston, . . .	42	\$2 50	47.	Thomas Jefferson, . . .	47	\$2 50
2.	Maj. General Gates, for Saratoga, . .	34	1 50	48.	James Madison, . . .	40	1 50
3.	Gen. Morgan, for Cowpens, . . .	35	1 50	49.	James Monroe, . . .	40	1 50
4.	John Eager Howard, for Cowpens, . .	28	1 50	50.	John Q. Adams, . . .	40	1 50
5.	Col. Wm. Washington, for Cowpens, .	28	1 50	51.	Andrew Jackson, . . .	40	1 50
6.	Col. Geo. Croghan, for Sandusky, . .	40	1 50	52.	Martin Van Buren, . . .	40	1 50
7.	Maj. Gen. Harrison, for the Thames, .	40	1 50	53.	John Tyler, . . .	40	1 50
8.	Gov. Isaac Shelby, for the Thames, .	40	1 50	54.	James K. Polk, . . .	40	1 50
9.	Maj. Gen. Scott, for Chippewa and Niagara, . . .	40	1 50	55.	Zachary Taylor, . . .	40	1 50
10.	Maj. Gen. Gaines, for Fort Erie, . .	40	1 50	56.	Millard Fillmore, . . .	40	1 50
11.	Maj. Gen. Porter, for Chippewa, Niagara and Erie, . . .	40	1 50	57.	Franklin Pierce, . . .	40	1 50
12.	Maj. Gen. Brown, for the same, . .	40	1 50	58.	James Buchanan, . . .	48	2 00
13.	Brig. Gen. Miller, for the same, . .	40	1 50	59.	Abraham Lincoln, . . .	48	2 00
14.	Brig. Gen. Ripley, for the same, . .	40	1 50	60.	Andrew Johnson, . . .	48	2 00
15.	Maj. Gen. Macomb, Battle of Plattsburg, .	40	1 50	61.	Ulysses S. Grant, . . .	48	2 00
16.	Maj. Gen. Jackson, Battle of New Orleans, . . .	40	1 50	SUB-NATIONAL MEDALS.			
17.	Maj. Gen. Taylor, Palo Alto, . . .	40	1 50	62.	Capt. Perry, (State of Pennsylvania,) for the Capture of the British Fleet on Lake Erie, . . .	40	1 50
18.	Maj. Gen. Taylor, for Monterey, . .	40	1 50	63.	Penn. Volunteers, Action on Lake Erie, .	40	1 50
19.	Maj. Gen. Taylor, for Buena Vista, . .	56	3 00	64.	Maj. Gen. Scott, (Commonwealth of Virginia,) . . .	56	3 00
20.	Maj. Gen. Scott, for Battles in Mexico, .	56	3 00	MISCELLANEOUS AMERICAN.			
21.	Maj. Gen. Grant, . . .	64	8 00	65.	Col. Armstrong, for destruction of the Indian Village of Kittanning, . . .	27	1 00
NAVY.				66.	Indian Peace Medal, . . .	27	1 00
22.	John Paul Jones, for Serapis, . . .	36	2 00	67.	Captains Creighton, Low and Stouffer, Wreck of Steamer San Francisco, . .	47	2 00
23.	Capt. Thomas Truxton, for the action with the Frigate L'Insurgents, . . .	35	1 50	68.	Dr. Hosack, . . .	21	25
24.	Capt. Hull, for Capture of Guerriere, .	40	1 50	69.	First Steam Coinage, . . .	16	25
25.	Capt. Jacob Jones, for Capture of the Frolic, . . .	40	1 50	70.	Com. M. C. Perry, from Merchants of Boston, . . .	40	2 00
26.	Capt. Decatur, for Capture of the Mace- donian, . . .	40	1 50	71.	Pacific Railroad Medal, . . .	29	1 25
27.	Capt. Bainbridge, for Capture of the Java, . . .	40	1 50	72.	Emancipation Proclamation Medal, . .	29	1 00
28.	Capt. Lawrence, for Capture of the Peacock, . . .	40	1 50	73.	Field Medal, . . .	64	8 00
29.	Capt. Burrows, for Capture of the Boxer, .	40	1 50	74.	Dr. Joseph Pancoast, . . .	48	3 00
30.	Lieut. McCall, for Capture of the Boxer, .	40	1 50	75.	Grant's Indian Peace Medal, . . .	40	3 00
31.	Capt. Perry, Capture of British Fleet on Lake Erie, . . .	40	1 50	76.	"Let us have Peace," . . .	29	1 25
32.	Capt. Elliott, for the same, . . .	40	1 50	WASHINGTON MEDALS.			
33.	Capt. Warrington, for Capture of the Epervier, . . .	40	1 50	77.	Presidency Relinquished, . . .	25	1 00
34.	Capt. Blakely, for Capture of the Rein- deer, . . .	40	1 50	78.	The Cabinet Medal, . . .	37	1 00
35.	Capt. MacDonough, Capture of the Brit- ish Fleet on Lake Champlain, . . .	40	1 50	79.	Time Increases his Fame, . . .	16	50
36.	Capt. Henley, for the same, . . .	40	1 50	80.	Commencement of Cabinet, . . .	12	25
37.	Lieut. Cassin, for the same, . . .	40	1 50	81.	Small Head of Washington, . . .	11	25
38.	Capt. Biddle, for Capture of the Pen- guin, . . .	40	1 50	FINE GOLD MEDALS.			
39.	Capt. Stuart, Capture of the Cyane and Levant, . . .	40	1 50	<i>See Rule 3.</i>			
39½.	Capt. Ed. Preble, before Tripoli, . . .	40	1 50	Time Increases his Fame, . . .			
MISCELLANEOUS.				Commencement of Cabinet, . . .			
40.	Rescue of Officers and Crew, brig Somers, .	36	1 50	Washington and Jackson, . . .			
41.	Capt. Ingraham, for Rescue of Martin Kozta, . . .	64	3 00	Washington and Lincoln, . . .			
42.	Shipwreck Medal, . . .	40	1 50	Washington and Grant, . . .			
43.	United States Coast Survey, for Gallan- try and Humanity, . . .	21	1 00	Washington Wreath, . . .			
44.	Japanese Embassy Medal, . . .	48	2 00	Lincoln and Grant, . . .			
45.	Dr. Frederick Rose, for Skill and Hu- manity, . . .	48	3 00	Lincoln Broken Column, . . .			
46.	Alliance Medal, . . .	18	25	FINE SILVER MEDALS.			
				<i>See Rule 3.</i>			
				Cabinet Medal, . . .			
				Presidency Relinquished, . . .			
				Alliance Medal, . . .			
				Time Increases his Fame, . . .			
				Commencement of Cabinet, . . .			
				Washington and Jackson, . . .			
				Washington and Lincoln, . . .			
				Washington and Grant, . . .			
				Washington Wreath, . . .			
				Lincoln and Grant, . . .			
				Lincoln Broken Column, . . .			

The diameter of the medals is expressed by numbers, each of which indicates the sixteenth of an inch. Medals struck to order in gold, silver or bronze, from dies of public institutions. Gold medals, payable in gold coin; silver medals, payable in silver coin; bronze medals, in United States notes.

## NUMISMATICS AND ARCHÆOLOGY.

ONE cannot but notice the frequent examples which show the intimate connection between numismatics and archæology. The excavations constantly going on in various places on the continent and in the East, about the ruins of buried cities or for public works, are daily bringing to light many valuable relics of antique art, and with hardly less frequency are yielding interesting specimens of ancient coinage. A Roman aqueduct was lately laid bare in the excavations for the railway works from Payerne to Friburg, Switzerland. The aqueduct, which is built of cement, and is in perfect preservation, served to supply the old Aventicum (Avenches) with water from the small lake of Leedorf, in the canton of Friburg. A discovery of Roman remains, amongst which was a coin dating from the year 18 B. C., and another, very well preserved, from the time of Constantine the Great, was made at Soleure, in a house undergoing alterations.

A Frankish cemetery containing numerous burial places, has recently been discovered at Belfort. It appears to have occupied the site of a former Gallo-Roman village, and numerous fragments of armor and personal ornaments, mixed with Roman pottery, were found in the course of the excavations. Two tombs, one Gallo-Roman, and the other mediæval, have been discovered on the Roman road from Breith to Poitiers; the latter contained a large number of silver coins, chiefly of Philip VI. of Valois.

## THE WASHINGTON EVACUATION MEDAL.

(See Journal of Numismatics, Vol. IX, pp. 21 and 27.)

WE have recently been informed by a friend residing in Virginia, that a lady,—Mrs. N. E. S——, now in Philadelphia, has for sale the "Washington Evacuation Medal" in gold, and for which it is said she has been offered *five thousand dollars*.

## NEWSPAPER NUMISMATICS.

*Editors of Journal of Numismatics :*

ON page 22, Vol. IX, I find a paragraph which reads:—"In a lot of stolen property awaiting claimants, in Cleveland, O., is or was a satchel containing about 200 *extremely rare* old Coins." Now, this is truly a newspaper item, and as usual is as correct as any of them that relate to numismatics. The facts in the case I will state for the benefit of the anxious readers of the aforementioned paragraph, (although it grieves me to blight the hopes of those who expected to get them,) that about the 1st of June, I received a note from Mr. J. W. Schmitt, Superintendent of Police, Cleveland, O., to the effect that the "*extremely rare old Coins*" were naught but "Copperheads," Canada Cents, English coppers, and a few United States Cents, and instead of "200" there were but 80 pieces, being of no value except for old copper. Hoping this will be acceptable as a correction,

I remain,

D. PROSKEY.

57 Courtlandt Street, N. Y.



## MEDALS OF QUEEN ANNE.

*Editors of Journal of Numismatics :*

AT Brandon, on James River, in Prince George County, Va., the well known seat of the Harrison family for two centuries, and during this period renowned for its noble and generous hospitality, the visitor is gratified to find among other historic treasures a fine collection of portraits of English and American gentlemen and ladies renowned for their beauty, their accomplishments and achievements in war, literature and science. One of the most striking is a three-quarter length of Col. Daniel Parke, whose daughter was the first wife of Col. Wm. Byrd of Westover in Virginia. He is represented as dressed in the richest costume of the period, gold lace, embroidery, silk and satin, sword, ruffles, &c. From his neck is suspended by a ribbon the portrait of Queen Anne, which he received from her Majesty for bringing the news of Marlborough's victory at Blenheim. On a table near him are his shield and breastplate, and with the latter amidst a pile of gold chains are three gold meda's. One of these hangs over the edge of the table and is about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter. The side which is shown has upon it the armorial bearings of Scotland and the motto CRESCUNT CONCORDIA RES PARVÆ. If any of your readers can inform me in regard to such a medal I will be obliged.

Respectfully,

T. H. W.

*Richmond, Va., Sept. 5, 1874.*

## ENGLISH WAR MEDALS.

THE London Athenæum, in speaking of the contemplated English War Medals, says :—"It seems probable that the authorities are now paying some attention to the art aspect of the medals, if not of the coins, which are prepared for public service. Artistically speaking, there is not much to be said for the British coinage, for the vaunted perfection of the operations of our mint appear, characteristically enough, only in its mechanical arrangements; the result being that so many coins are struck with unexceptionable accuracy per hour, day after day and month after month. Usually, if anything can be more commonplace, not to say stupid, than our coins, it is our medals. But for the Ashanti war medal, one of our most capable artists has been invited to make the design required by the die-sinker. Mr. Poynter has accepted the commission, and will, no doubt, produce a fine work."

## SPECIE OR PAPER?

HAD Morton the fingers of *Midas* of old,  
Whose touch, it is said, would turn all things to gold,  
How happy for us! but alas! it appears  
That Morton of *Midas* has only the ears.

A HARD-MONEY Congressman condensed his speech by holding a ten-dollar greenback in one hand and a ten-dollar gold piece in the other, and asking, "Which will you have?"

## A NOTE FOR £1,000,000.

THE following extract from an account of a visit said to have been made to Samuel Rogers, the poet, is taken from "*Pen and Ink Sketches* : by a Cosmopolitan ;" published in Boston in 1845.

These *Sketches* were written by an Englishman, by the name of Ross, and, at the time of publication, were considered utterly untrustworthy. [Eds.]

"But there were two objects in the room, which, more than any others, engrossed my attention; the one represented the enormous wealth of its possessor, and the other indicated his keen appreciation of the value of mind. These articles were simply two small pieces of paper, in gold frames. One of them was a Bank of England note for one million pounds sterling, and the other the original receipt of John Milton for five pounds, (the sum he received for the copyright of *Paradise Lost*, from Simmonds, the bookseller.) The bank note was one of the only four which were ever struck from a plate, which was afterwards destroyed. The Rothschilds have one impression; the late Mr. Coutts had another; the Bank of England the third, and, as I have said, Mr. Rogers decorates his parlor with the remaining one. There it hangs, within any one's reach—a fortune to many, but valueless to all excepting its owner. No one would think of stealing it, for it would be only as so much waste paper. It never could be negotiated without detection, and, were it destroyed by fire, from its peculiar character no loss would ensue to Mr. Rogers. At his word, however, it might be transformed into a golden shower. He, alone, is the magician who can render it all-powerful for good or evil." pp. 25-26.

## THE AGASSIZ MEDAL.

AN engraving of the Agassiz Medal, recently struck at the United States Mint in honor of the distinguished scholar whose bust it bears, is to be found in "*Frank Leslie's*" illustrated weekly for the 19th of September last. The size of the Medal is about 28 by the American scale. The obverse has a bust of Agassiz facing the observer's right, with the name AGASSIZ on the left; below the bust in small letters w. BARBER. The reverse has the legend TERRA MARIQUE DUCTOR, INDAGATIONE NATURÆ, around a laurel wreath, within which are the words NA. 1807. OB. 1873. in two straight lines; above them a classic lamp, and between them two inverted torches, crossed. In the exergue, two crossed branches of cypress. The translation of the legend is, "A leader in the close investigation of nature, by land and sea."

## UNDERGROUND MEDALS.

*Editors of Journal of Numismatics :*

So many go to see London, (not as we used to do in play,) that it may be well to give your readers a word of caution. In passing along where they are digging out old basements, or making excavations, a workman may ask

your attention to a very curious coin or medal which his spade has just turned up. He will be specially apt to do so, if he sees you are from "the States;" and they all know a Yankee at first glance, just as surely as we know an Englishman. He cannot tell what it is, but you can have it for two shillings.

Just such a *find*, consisting of two leaden tokens or medals, was lately offered for sale at the Cabinet of the Mint. The pieces made a good show, and had a good endorsement. The latter was in the shape of a newspaper flourish, which I will not send you, because it gives the name of the learned Professor (in one of our large cities) who translated the inscriptions, and explained the devices. Sufficient to say, they gave the names and faces of two Anglo-Saxon kings, never heard of before; and the larger piece, in which the king was armed with sword and cross, was "intended for his soldiers, going to the Crusades." It bore the date 1000, and was therefore struck long enough in advance.

They looked old enough, and barbaric enough, to belong to that very age. And yet, I thought a little more scholarship ought to be exercised upon them before making a purchase. So with the owner's consent, I sent impressions in gutta percha to an esteemed correspondent in the medal department in the British Museum, to have his experience and judgment.

Here I would copy the reply, but cannot just now lay hands upon it. The amount of it was, that the medals were an imposture; the legends had no sense or meaning whatever; and they were just such pieces as are constantly fabricated in some of the manufacturing towns, and sold very cheap to the London laborers, on purpose to be dug up.

And, as if to "pour water on a drowned mouse," it was added, that the date alone was enough to condemn it, since there was no use or knowledge of Arabic figures (1000) for nearly three centuries after that, in England, or any part of Europe except Moorish Spain.

I have charity enough to believe, that the translator only meant to help the humbug along, and gratify the lucky holder of the prizes. When I communicated to the latter the reply sent to me, he "believed the British Museum did not know anything about it," and wished the pieces returned. Probably there was a spirit of rivalry, as he has a museum of his own.

*U. S. Mint, Philadelphia, Sept. 7.*

W. E. D.

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## MODERN ANTIQUES.

(See Journal of Numismatics, Vol. VII, page 4.)

IN view of the fact that these counterfeits are again making their appearance, the following slip, cut from a paper of the time when they first showed themselves, is worth reprinting.—Eds.

"It is well known that the silver coinage of Massachusetts colony, struck in the 17th century, and known as the 'Pine tree money,' is in great request among coin collectors and commands a liberal price. Their eager desires have been more than satisfied by the sudden appearance of a goodly number of complete sets, from the twelve-pence down to the penny. They are unfortunately so well executed as to be likely to deceive, being of standard



silver, discolored as if they had been buried, and partially defaced, as if by wear. But by careful inspection it is evident that the dies have been prepared for the terms required. An *experienced* collector would shake his head at them the moment they were placed before him."—*Philadelphia Inquirer*, August, 1856.

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### GOLDEN DREAMS.

WRECKED and sunken treasure ships have always an attraction for a certain class of adventurers. Like the family estates in England which are waiting for American heirs, and will probably wait till Doomsday, these lost vessels are constantly exciting the avarice of those who have but little to lose and everything to gain, and there seems to be folly enough to float the companies formed to raise the gold, though but little treasure ever comes to daylight. It would be a curious calculation, should some one reckon how much good money has been spent in plans of this nature, and we incline to think that the silver wasted would probably equal the silver lost. The latest folly in this direction is detailed in the account which describes the plans of a company to be formed to raise the treasures which are believed to be still lying in the Lutine, a ship that went down about one hundred years ago in the Zuyder Zee. On the island of Urk a special station for observation is to be erected, in order to snatch the favorable moment in which the work of diving can be undertaken, a moment which occurs only occasionally during the year. The man who has placed himself at the head of the undertaking, Vermeulen, claims that he has a special diving apparatus with which work can also be done under the sand. The wreck of the ship is now estimated at 12,000,000 gulden, (£1,000,000,) in ready money, while about fifty years ago about eighty millions was brought to light.

Q. R.

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### THE TASTE FOR COLLECTING.

THERE is no reason that collecting should be perverted. On the contrary, there can hardly be a greater safeguard to a young man entering life than the possession of a taste, especially a taste for art. Since the days of Ovid it has been commended, and considering how many boys learn it with their early rules of grammar, it is surprising how few afterwards apply it. About forty years ago, a young gentleman, with a moderate allowance from his father, took a fancy to some china at a shop in Hanway street. He mortgaged half his quarter's income to buy it. His father and his friends, who would not have been the least put out if he had lost twice as much in a bet, looked aghast at the purchase. It was downright madness, wanton extravagance, to give fifty pounds for a couple of trumpery jars. But the same pair was sold at Christie's, lately, for a sum which paid principal, interest at twenty per cent. for forty years, and something over. The possession of knowledge is the first requisite in forming a collection, and the habit of acquiring even useless knowledge is not to be despised. Nothing can have a



better effect on the growing mind than a conviction, however impressed, that knowledge is money. The judicious collector must know something, if it is only about china jugs or snuff-boxes. And though a little knowledge in an important matter is dangerous, a profound knowledge of what is comparatively unimportant may lead on to fortune. Few men who have distinguished themselves have been without a collection, or at least a taste. John Selden formed a library. The duke of Wellington loved music. One of the greatest living statesmen is a judge of china. The first financier in Europe collects enamels. The busy man finds his greatest relaxation in such pursuits. Without being frivolous, they afford a relief from serious cares. Walpole and Richelieu formed galleries as refuges from affairs of state. It may be a question how far education neglects this subject. The early development of a turn for collecting, which was noticed in our opening sentence, is perhaps worth more consideration from those who bring up children than has yet been given to it. Monograms and postage stamps may in this way be among the civilizing agents of our time.—*London Saturday Review.*

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### CANADIAN MEDAL.

(See Journal of Numismatics, Vol. IX. page 1.)

#### *Editors of Journal of Numismatics :*

I FIND in my collection of Canadian medals the following piece, which is not described in either Mr. Appleton's or Mr. Sandham's "Historic Medals of Canada." It was formerly in the Mickley collection, but was not included in the public sale. Its execution is equal to that of the other medals struck by the Society for Promoting Arts and Commerce. *Obv.* GEORGE II KING. Head to left. *Rev.* CANADA SUBDUED. In exergue, MDCCLX S·P·A·C. In the field a pine tree with on the left a beaver, and on the right a disconsolate woman seated on the ground with her back to the tree. Size 24 : copper.

*Cambridge, July 20.*

H. W. H.

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### EASTERN COINS.

WE cut from the BOSTON DAILY ADVERTISER, of September 9, 1874, the following item :—

"THE well-known numismatic cabinet of the Museum at Jena has recently been materially enriched by the presentation on the part of the Grand Duke of Saxony of the extensive collection of Chinese and Japanese coin made by Herr J. Von Siebold during his prolonged residence in Japan. This unique collection, which is arranged chronologically, and extends from the year 221 B. C. to the present time, is essentially Japanese, although it contains genuine Chinese coins down to a comparatively recent period. This is owing to the singular fact that the Japanese, like some of the other nations occupying lands near the empire of China, made use of Chinese money as their only currency."

### MEDALS FOR THE HEROES OF MILL RIVER.

AFTER the excitement following the breaking away of the Mill River Dam, near Haydensville, Mass., there was much discussion as to whether or not the four men who were first to sound the note of warning to the villages had shown great bravery. They were poetized and lauded on one side, and on the other detractors arose who wished to rob them of their fame. The best judges of the value of the services rendered should be the parties served, and they have announced their appreciation of the prompt action which saved their lives and lives dearer than their own, in a manner at once substantial and appropriate. A number of citizens—among them Mr. William Skinner of Haydensville—have united in presenting to each of the heroes of Mill River an elegant gold medal commemorating the service performed. On the obverse is engraved a representation of the "ride for life," where the horse and rider are pursued by the raging waters which are spending the gathered energy of months in a single moment; on the reverse the name of the recipient, surrounded by a wreath in which the laurel and marshmallow—emblems of humanity and courage—are blended. The names are as follows: Collins Graves, Jerome Hillman, George Cheney and Myron Day.

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### FRENCH SATIRICAL PIECE.

THE authorities who so promptly attempted to repress the circulation of coins bearing a likeness of the French Prince Imperial, will probably be more lenient with the coppers, affecting to be of ten centimes, which have recently got into a certain circulation in France, and which are attracting some attention. They bear the head of Napoleon III in a Prussian helmet. Around the neck is a dog's collar with a ring. Upon it is inscribed "Sedan." The circular legend is "Napoleon III, le Miserable; 80,000 prisonnaires." On the reverse an owl perched on a cannon; around "Vampire Française, 2 Dec. 1851. Septembre, 1870."

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### CHINESE BRONZES.

THE beautiful patina produced upon the bronzes from China and Japan has been examined by M. Henri Morin of the Paris Conservatory. He finds that lead enters largely into the composition of these bronzes. In some specimens as much as twenty per cent. was found. Those bronzes which contained eighty parts of copper, ten parts of lead, four parts of tin, and two parts of zinc, were found to be of close and beautiful grain; and when heated in a muffle, it quickly takes the dark patina, which has been hitherto thought to be a varnish.

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A PAPER at Elgin says that a man's social standing in that town is graded by whether he drops a ten-penny nail or a quarter into the church contribution-box.

## NOTES AND QUERIES.

CAN any of our readers give us any information in relation to a 10/ silver piece, said to have been struck under Charles I., (1625 to 1649,) with a view of the City of Oxford under the horse?

AN ancient Spanish dollar was recently found on Gallows Hill, Salem, by Mr. William Leavitt. On the obverse is a medallion portrait, with the inscription Carolus III. (who reigned from 1759 to 1788). The reverse has been filed smooth, and a ship under full sail very handsomely engraved upon the smooth surface, with an English flag at the stern, and at the bottom the name Galatea.—*Boston Advertiser*, Aug. 8.

THE last bulletin published by the municipal archæological commission of Rome is entirely devoted to an enumeration of the articles discovered in the excavations made for the construction of the new quarters of the city, and which relics are still awaiting their classification in the different museums. Among them we notice the following: 133 æs, 298 pieces of silver, 1 of gold, 9690 bronze imperials, 20 of copper. Antiquaries and historical students everywhere will appreciate the services of this commission, whose labors have supplied great facilities for the pursuit of their favorite studies.

A CUBAN dollar is now worth only thirteen cents, but they keep on calling it a dollar just for the fun of the thing. Yes, and the United States dollar is worth to-day but eighty-nine cents, and "we keep on calling it a dollar just for the fun of the thing."

A BOY found a gold dollar on an ant hill in the old commissary building at Fort Fillmore, New Mexico, a short time since. The following day three dollars were found in the same place. They had evidently been brought up by the ants. Search was made, and a small wooden box, badly decayed, containing one hundred and eighty gold dollars was found about a foot below the surface.

MINT DROPS.—Almost a score of employes have been discharged from the Mint, at Philadelphia.

GOLD is money the world over and paper is not money the world over. Think it all over, with statements that it is, and still it is not money. The reason is plain. Paper has no inherent value. There is enough more where the last lot came from, and no man knows how much of it will be forthcoming.

IT is stated in the published proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society, under the account of the Washington Medals recently presented to that institution by Mr. Harvey, that the dies of several of those medals—the Washington Evacuation medal, the Col. Wm. Washington medal, and the Franklin and Howard medals—are in the *French* mint. Are not these dies our national property? If they are, should they not be in *our* mint? Perhaps some of your Philadelphia friends can answer these queries.

GLYPS.

## EDITORIAL.

IN a coin sale by Bangs, Merwin & Co., on the 24th of September last, we notice that lot 210 is described as follows:—"Samaritan shilling. Rev. Pine Tree. Not offered as having been struck at the time of the Pine Tree money, but very well struck, and very rare in this metal [gold]." This piece we have no doubt is one of Wyatt's fabrications. It is well known that the Good Samaritan piece was not a *coin*, and all which were ever struck in gold, (and no one knows how many beside,) came from the same unscrupulous hand with other pieces already described in our pages, [See the article on page 43 of this number—"Modern Antiques,"] and were got up to deceive unsuspecting collectors.

WE have received from William Lincoln, 239 High Holborn, London, his Catalogue (18mo) of Foreign and Colonial Stamps, &c., &c. Accompanying it was a fac-simile of the same, of one-fourth the size, by Photo-Lithography, done by Dujardin, and printed by Barousse, in Paris. This is truly a Diamond Edition.

SINCE our last issue we have been favored with a visit from Mr. Joseph J. Mickley, the veteran collector of Medals and Coins, of Philadelphia, who passed several days in our city. During his stay of some two years in different parts of Europe, 1869-1872, he made a collection of coins of the countries that he visited. Mr. M. is much interested in historical studies, and is in receipt of some interesting and valuable papers from Stockholm relating to the early settlement of the Swedes on the Delaware, which he is now translating with a view of publishing. He has also been engaged on a work lately published by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania—"A History of New Sweden; or, the Settlement on the River Delaware," translated and edited by William M. Reynolds, D. D., who speaks in very complimentary terms of the aid rendered him by Mr. Mickley, who is familiar with the Swedish language.

AMONG the early collectors named in the last number of the *Journal*, the Hon. Henry A. Muhlenberg, of Reading, Pa., was mentioned. A letter to James Hall, Allentown, Pa., dated Nov. 18, 1849, says that he had a collection of coins numbering two thousand and forty-three, of which forty-nine were gold, one thousand one hundred and twenty in silver, three hundred and ninety-two in billon and copper, two hundred and forty-three dollars and one hundred and fourteen half dollars.

THE tenth and probably the last number of Mr. Crosby's work on Early American Coins is in press, and we solicit for it the patronage of Collectors as being the most complete and accurate publication of the kind. The illustrations by the Heliotype process have been carefully and judiciously selected, giving an exact fac-simile of the coins. A list of the patrons of the work will be appended to this number.

COLLECTORS of Engravings will find at A. O. Crane's, 98 Kingston Street, corner of Essex Street, a variety of old and curious prints. They may not have the good fortune to discover among the mass an Albert Durer—as an experienced connoisseur chanced to a short time ago—but they may find something curious and well worth buying.

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### CURRENCY.

A GOOD heart's worth gold.

A RARE JEWEL—Consistency.

RARE COINS—Coins of truth.

CURRENT NOTES—Greenbacks.

GOOD bones are better than gold.

A BAD OMEN—To owe men money.

MANY a man is rich without money.

A VIRTUOUS woman is a crown to her husband.

A HANDFUL of right is better than a sackful of gold.

BALLOONS do not cost much; they are made for ascent.

DOLLARS and Sense do not necessarily follow each other.

SOME men will do anything for money—even good actions.

COINS, postage stamps, autographs, &c., lead young people toward rational tastes and occupation.

THOUGH all that glitters be not gold, the glitter of more gold would be light whereby to settle the financial question.

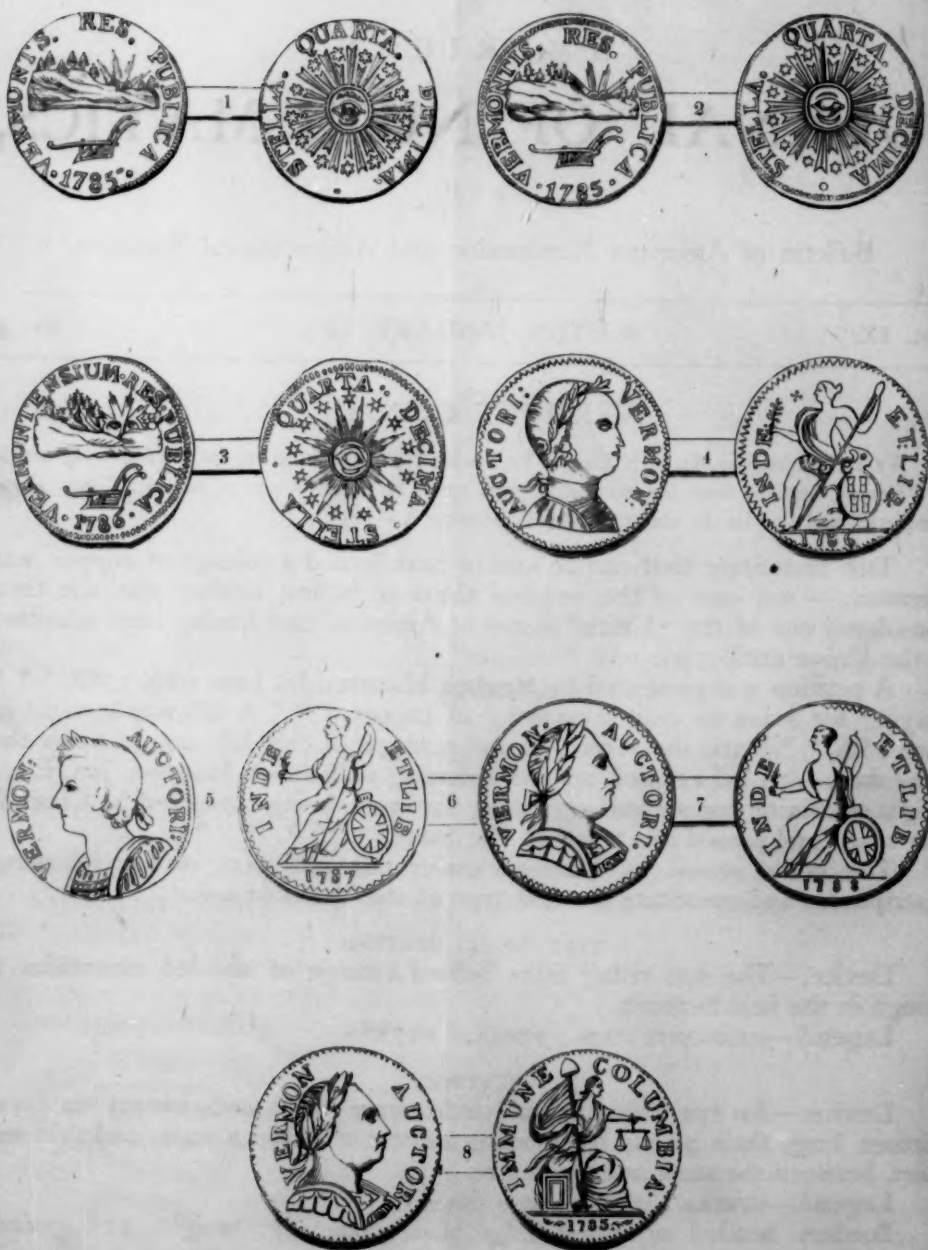
THE MEANEST MAN—one who promised his son a dollar to take a dose of castor oil, and then paid the debt in a counterfeit bill.

"OLD CHINA" is the rage in London. A few weeks ago, 6000 guineas were given for two Sevres vases by a lavish purchaser.

MONEY was lately dreadfully scarce with some folks in the large cities; but everybody was anxious to go into the country for a little change.







VARIETIES OF VERMONT COINAGE.